

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for determining whether a particular service is provided by
2 a cellular service provider comprising:

3 listening for a page which includes a particular number plan area code
4 ("NPA") in a first frequency block;

5 if said page is not heard in said first frequency block within a specified
6 time period, listening for a page in a second frequency block which includes said
7 particular NPA; and

8 determining that said service is provided in said frequency block in which
9 said page is sensed.

1. The method as in claim 1 further comprising:

2 upon sensing said page in either said first or said second frequency band,
3 listening for a negative page within a time period following sensing said page,
4 said negative page indicating that said service is not supported in said frequency
5 band in which it is sensed.

3. The method as in claim 1 further comprising:

2 wherein upon hearing a negative page in said first frequency block,
3 switching to said second frequency block and listening for a page which includes
4 said NPA.

1 4. The method as in claim 1 further comprising:
2 upon determining that said service is supported, updating a system
3 identification ("SID") table to include a SID value identifying said cellular service
4 provider.

1 5. The method as in claim 1 wherein said NPA is not used as an area
2 code in any cellular market.

1 6. The method as in claim 1 further comprising:
2 transmitting a coverage determination packet requesting a page in said
3 first frequency block.

1 7. The method as in claim 6 further comprising:
2 upon receiving a page responsive to said coverage determination packet,
3 determining whether said page is a negative page indicating that said particular
4 service is not provided in said first frequency block.

1 8. The method as in claim 6 further comprising:
2 upon receiving a page responsive to said coverage determination packet,
3 listening for a negative page for a specified time period, said negative page
4 indicating that said particular service is not provided in said first frequency
5 block.

1 9. The method as in claim 8 further comprising:
2 updating a system identification ("SID") table to include a SID value
3 identifying said cellular service provider upon sensing said page and not sensing
4 a negative page.

1 10. A method for determining whether a service is provided in a cellular
2 market comprising:

3 transmitting a network beacon page request in a first frequency block; and
4 listening for a network beacon page indicating that said service is
5 provided.

1 11. The method as in claim 10 further comprising:
2 determining that said service is provided upon hearing said network
3 beacon page.

1 12. The method as in claim 10 further comprising:
2 changing to a second frequency block if said network beacon page is not
3 heard within a specified time period; and
4 listening for said network beacon page in said second frequency block.

1 13. The method as in claim 10 wherein said network beacon page is
2 identified by its number plan area code ("NPA").

1 14. The method as in claim 10 further comprising:
2 upon receiving a page following said network beacon page request,
3 determining whether said page is a negative page indicating that said particular
4 service is not provided in said first frequency block.

1 15. The method as in claim 10 further comprising:
2 upon receiving a page following said network beacon page request,
3 listening for a negative page for a specified time period, said negative page

4 indicating that said particular service is not provided in said first frequency
5 block.

1 16. The method as in claim 15 further comprising:
2 transmitting a second network request beacon page in a second frequency
3 block responsive to receiving a negative page in said first frequency block; and
4 listening for a network beacon page indicating that said service is
5 provided in said second frequency block.

1 17. The method as in claim 10 further comprising:
2 updating a system identification ("SID") table to include a SID value
3 identifying a cellular service provider in said market upon sensing said network
4 beacon page.

1 18. An RF module comprising:
2 a processor;
3 a memory for storing instructions which, when executed by said
4 processor, cause said processor to perform:
5 transmitting a network beacon page request in a first frequency block; and
6 listening for a network beacon page indicating that said service is
7 provided.

1 19. The RF module as in claim 18 further including instructions which,
2 when executed by said processor, cause said processor to additionally perform:
3 determining that said service is provided upon hearing said network
4 beacon page.

1 20. The RF module as in claim 18 further including instructions which,
2 when executed by said processor, cause said processor to additionally perform:
3 changing to a second frequency block if said network beacon page is not
4 heard within a specified time period; and
5 listening for said network beacon page in said second frequency block.

*SLFB
A2* 21. The RF module as in claim 18 wherein said network beacon page is
identified by it's number plan area code ("NPA").

1 22. The RF module as in claim 18 further including instructions which,
2 when executed by said processor, cause said processor to additionally perform:
3 upon receiving a page following said network beacon page request,
4 determining whether said page is a negative page indicating that said particular
5 service is not provided in said first frequency block.

1 23. The RF module as in claim 18 further including instructions which,
2 when executed by said processor, cause said processor to additionally perform:
3 upon receiving a page following said network beacon page request,
4 listening for a negative page for a specified time period, said negative page
5 indicating that said particular service is not provided in said first frequency
6 block.

1 24. The RF module as in claim 23 further including instructions which,
2 when executed by said processor, cause said processor to additionally perform:
3 transmitting a second network request beacon page in a second frequency
4 block responsive to receiving a negative page in said first frequency block; and

B1
and

5 listening for a network beacon page indicating that said service is
6 provided in said second frequency block.

SL3
A3

1 25. The RF module as in claim 10 further including instructions which,
2 when executed by said processor, cause said processor to additionally perform:
3 updating a system identification ("SID") table to include a SID value
4 identifying a cellular service provider in said market upon sensing said network
5 beacon page.

SADD
A4